

Contest Gazette

Florida Contest Group

www.floridicontestgroup.org



Volume 12 Issue 1

February 2005

From the President's Corner

By Dan Street, K1TO



2004 was in many ways a year to forget. We are rapidly approaching the one-year anniversary of the passing of our founding father, Jim, K4OJ. Up the road in GA, the loss of Bill, W4AN is still being deeply felt as well. BPL continues to rear its ugly head, but fortunately, not very extensively in FL yet. And almost all of us suffered damage from some combination of C******, F******, I*** and J******. Many of us have not fully rebuilt yet, but we will.

In the light of that situation, it is all the more amazing that this club put nearly 100 Million points on the board during CQWW, over 3 million in SS and over 10 million in the 10-Meter Contest, all near a sunspot minimum!

Those that were unable to fully rebuild chose to go on a DXpedition, or to use the single band for which their antenna(s) still work(s), or to join a multi-op. And we are doing it in ever-growing numbers. Every score counts. Thanks to all of you who made the effort to get on and support our club so far this season. For the most part, we have been rewarded with conditions that are better than one would expect as we approach rock bottom in the sunspot cycle. The Team Contesting concept brought out a lot of us in WW SSB - we should do that again this year!

In brighter news, the FCG grew from 172 to 193 members in 2004. We lost a few, but gained nearly 30 new members! In the ARRL DX Test for 2004, we cracked the Unlimited club barrier (>50 entries) for the first time ever. And being a Red Sox fan since the mid-60s, I was personally thrilled to see them win a World Series in my lifetime! So, 2004 was not completely bleak.

We're all thankful that Charly, K4VUD survived the earthquake and subsequent tsunamis over in the Indian Ocean. It's encouraging to see the VU government finally recognizing the value of ham radio and easing the difficulty of getting licensed in VU4, but it's a shame that it took a huge disaster to spark that to happen. See page 15 for a great story of Ellen, W1YL reaching out with assistance to the victims from the OJ/CW memorial fund.

Speaking of getting governmental agencies to recognize hams as valuable, check out the story and photos on pages 14 - 15. Eric, K9ES and others did an incredible job of set-

ting up a multi-multi for Skywarn Recognition Day and making the most of it on the air!

At long last, FQP log checking for 2004 is complete. With over 700 logs and over 80,000 QSOs to cross-check, the effort required increases each year. We're now compiling the line scores, plaque winners, write-up, certificates, etc. Thanks to WD4AHZ, WC4E, K4XS & K4XSS and others who help to make the FQP just a great event each year! There are some razor thin margins of victory this year in some categories, so the effort to crunch the logs solidifies our recognition of the winners.

I'm hoping that we can get back to a more regular meeting schedule for the rest of 2005. Looking ahead beyond the Miami and Orlando hamfest meetings, we have a meeting at the Fort Walton Beach hamfest on Saturday, March 19. With the FQP following at the end of April, less than 11

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weeks away, it would be great to find a meeting host for a meeting earlier in April to plan for it and in early May to relive the fun.

The Dayton Hamvention is the third weekend of May. Thanks to Charlie, NF4A's efforts, the FCG will again host a hospitality suite. I hope to once again award a number of FQP plaques in person this year. 2004's suite was our first ever and was a huge success. See you there?

Speaking of Charlie, congrats are in order for being appointed to the post of ARRL Contest Advisory Committee representative for the Southeastern Division. While we all know the battle we are trying to fight regarding the 175-mile circle that prevents the Panhandle group from combining scores with the rest of the FCG, there are other issues that the CAC addresses. They welcome your input, so please contact Charlie with any thoughts and ideas.

A quick apology is in order for my relative lack of attention to the club in recent months. Work obligations have crept in, but I hope to soon have them wrestled back to a reasonable level. Thanks for bearing with me.

Let's get back to having fun at this neat hobby of ours in 2005. GO FCG! OJ!

vy 73, Dan, K1TO

Charlie NF4A named to

On January 19 Charlie NF4A posted the following note to the reflector:

Effective today, I have been appointed by W4RH as the new Southeastern Division CAC (Contest Advisory Committee) representative.

Congratulations Charlie! It's great to have an FCG member on the CAC.



The following new members have joined FCG since the last newsletter:

K4QQT Scott Woodruff, 29637 South Dixie Highway, Ste # 374, Homestead FL 3033 e-mail: stw12003@yahoo.com

VE3XD/W4 Don Cassel, 700 Starkey Road # 623, Largo FL 33771 e-mail: ve3xd@rogers.com

KC4FWS Jim Hughes 11432 Lowndesboro Drive, Jacksonville FL 32223-1376 e-mail: kc4fws@arrl.net

W4CEO Maurice Schietecatte, 9450 SE 137th Street, Summerfield FL 34991-8208 e-mail: scat42@earthlink.net

W4PAM Frank C. Harris, 512 E. Pasadena Ave, Clewiston FL 33440 e-mail: fcharris44@earthlink.net

Activity Calendar

Orlando Hamfest 12-13 Feb—Luncheon Meeting at Noon on Saturday at Picadilly Café, 1840 E. Colonial Drive (SR50)

CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest 0000Z, Feb 12 to 2359Z, Feb 13

North American Sprint, CW 0000Z-0400Z, Feb 13

ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW 0000Z, Feb 19 to 2400Z, Feb 20

CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB 0000Z, Feb 26 to 2359Z, Feb 27

North American QSO Party, RTTY 1800Z, Feb 26 to 0600Z, Feb 27

ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB 0000Z, Mar 5 to 2400Z, Mar 6

BARTG HF RTTY Contest 0200Z, Mar 19 to 0200Z, Mar 21

CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB 0000Z, Mar 26 to 2359Z, Mar 27

2005 FCG Dues are due!

It's that time of year again. Dues collections went well in January. If you haven't paid yet, please make your dues check out to Florida Contest Group and send it to:

**Fred Perkins
3437 Lake Josephine Drive
Lake Placid FL 33852**
Dues for receipt of the newsletter through download from the FCG site are \$10, for a mailed hard-copy \$15.
Thanks for your cooperation.
73, Fred K4LQ
Treasurer FCG

CQWW SSB Claimed Scores

Call	Q	C	Z	Score	Category	Team	
9A1A NQ4I				25,219,030 14,400,000	MM MM	N4PN,NF4A 2 of 13 Ops VE7ZO,N40X among 18 Ops	
PJ2T NJ4M	2186	425	132	26,404,260 3,356,482	M2 M2HP	K1XX 1 of 8 Ops K1TO,WD4AHZ @K1TO	
W4OV/VP9	3840	408	111	4,767,015	MSLP	WD4R,W4OV,W4DTA,K9VV@VP9GE	
WX4G N8PR NJ2F WB2QLP WC4E K4PV K4ADR W7QF N4GI	1375 865 845 807 728 733 505 308 236	428 336 297 265 306 185 242 180 136	143 109 100 84 699,442 79 81 69 48	2,228,042 1,078,680 932,156 744,068 500,280 451,231 215,634 122,738	SOABHP SOABHP SOABHP SOABHP SOABHP SOABHP SOABHP SOABHP	3 1 2 4 2 2	
PJ4J K4GKD AA4RX K4JAF N4EK WR3Y K9AW KK4TA AJ2U KE1F NA4CW K4RFK	5859 689 670 418 497 378 226 236 230 124 96 48	405 255 275 253 218 120 160 131 127 81 69 29	119 94 82 94 64 36 61 49 47 33 48 20	9,158,996 687,107 668,304 400,438 392,836 168,168 139,893 117,360 105,444 37,848 29,367 5,978	SOABLP SOABLP SOABLP SOABLP SOABLP SOABLP SOABLP SOABLP SOABLP SOABLP SOABLP SOABLP	1 1 4 4 4 4 3 3	T93M
N4WW K1PT W4ZW KB4ET	1467 817 350 241	571 321 134 166	158 109 60 58	2,990,358 985,560 191,866 149,408	SOABLP(A) SOABLP(A) SOABLP(A) SOABLP(A)	6 2 2 3	
N4BP K8OSF	1 112	291 55	29 20	428,171 22,575	SO10HP SO10LP	5 5	
VP5DX KG4WW K1UM W4FDA W4/M0BUE	3636 2724 528 409 385	125 136 127 140 87	34 916,232 33 37 23	1,459,917 SO15HP SO15HP SO15HP SO15HP(A)	1 1 6 1 SO15HP	NU4Y KX4WW	
W4ARM K4VUD	367 206	96 71	27 53,675	124,476 SO20HP(A)	6 5		
K4XS	948	112	30	389,648	SO40HP	5	
OM6NM	1121	65	16	103,900	SO75HP	1	
Total				44,053,356			

W4OV/VP9 in CQWW SSB*By Bruce Phegley W4OV*

Bermuda, VP9, is 600 miles due East of Cape Hatteras, NC. A cluster of islands connected by bridges 24 miles long and less than a mile wide. This semi tropical island has temperatures similar to South Florida because of its proximity to the Gulf Stream. The people are very friendly, speak English and the US dollar is swapped evenly with the Bermudan dollar. Excellent airport, roads, bus and ferry transportation makes it a pleasure to get around.

Ed Kelly, VP9GE, was our host. He furnished us with two nice apartments in his complex; several antennas, DSL and his courtesy assistance made our stay very enjoyable. (see <http://wwwlqlsl.net/VP9GE>)

Other activities of interest were Scuba diving, historical tours. Barcadi World headquarters are in Hamilton, Bermuda.

We were blessed with fantastic propagation and good weather. We would recommend this place to anyone especially those who are interested in instant pile-ups, especially on CW. Bruce W4OV, Julio WD4R, Fred K9VV and Steve W4DTA all had a great time. 73 from all.

Our station consisted of 2-ICOM 706s, 2 lap top computers running CT, A3 and A4 yagis, a G5RV and a dipole in MSLP 3840 X 408 111 4,767,015



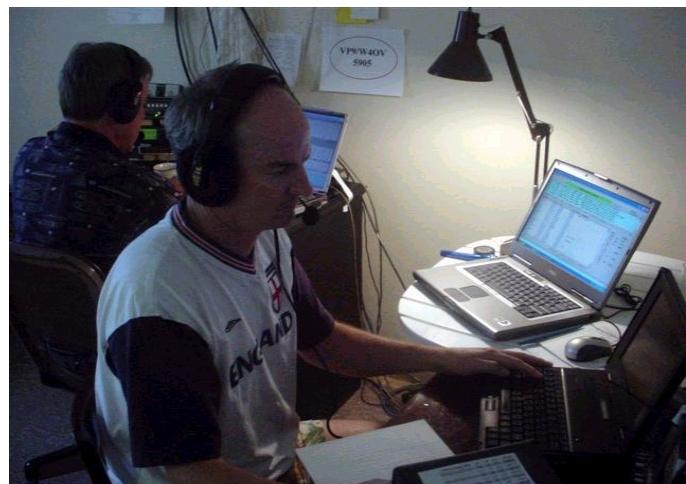
The Antenna Farm at VP9GE



The VP9 Team - Standing L-R Fred K9VV, Steve W4DTA Sitting L-R Bruce W4OV, Julio WD4R



Julio WD4R in action during the Contest



Fred K9VV working down the pileups



Steve W4DTA tunes in a weak one

T93M/N4EXA at PJ4J-CQWW SSB



Danny T93M/N4EXA at the PJ4J Operating Position



Force 12 C31XR at 60 Feet



2 element 40 Meter beam at 90 Feet



A very friendly creature



SO2R Setup at PJ4J

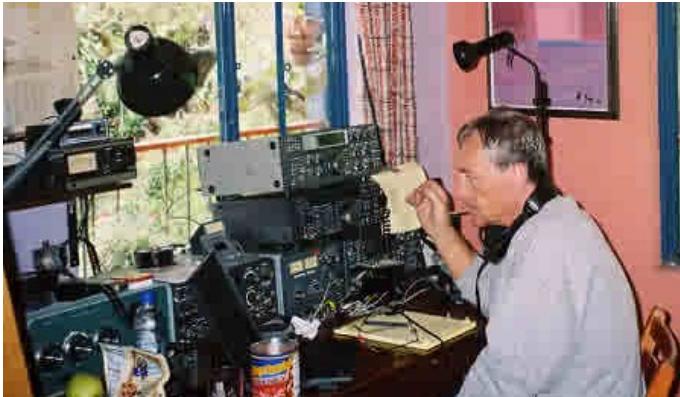


Closeup of another friendly fellow

CQWW CW Claimed Scores

Call	Q	C	Z	Score	Category	Operators
N4TB	1138	115	370	1,543,755	SOABHP	
K9OM	1091	121	352	1,417,581	SOABHP	
N4GI	650	81	236	585,816	SOABHP	
W7QF	382	89	202	311,079	SOABHP	
K4PB	343	87	191	257,150	SOABHP	
K4CC	263	50	184	135,976	SOABHP	
W4/G4BUE	290	42	100	111,612	SOABHP	
W4IR	179	55	124	87,352	SOABHP	
WK2G	979	106	293	987,924	SOABLP	
K4GKD	733	108	299	816,849	SOABLP	
W1MO	480	87	249	444,864	SOABLP	
KE1F	430	76	203	307,458	SOABLP	
N4EK	295	56	155	166,901	SOABLP	
WD4AHZ	260	60	151	147,489	SOABLP	
N8PR	1430	141	426	2,228,877	M/S	N8PR, KA0GGI
N4WW	3267	168	570	6,479,640	M2	W4IX,N4WW,K0LUZ
K1PT	1128	136	410	1,714,440	SOABHP(A)	
W4ARM	662	80	258	629,184	SOABHP(A)	
W4ZW	171	62	121	84,180	SOABLP(A)	
W4FDA	145	29	96	51,250	SOAB(A)	
K4MM	234	27	85	70,560	SOSB/10HP	
KX4CW	123	24	61	27,795	SOSB/10LP	N4GM
NA4CW	126	23	55	26,754	SOSB/10QRP	
WR3Y	56	17	35	7,956	SOSB/10QRP	
WB4TDH	601	30	114	245,088	SOSB/15LP	
K9AW	220	34	109	89,232	SOSB/20LP	
K4XS	1380	35	122	597,856	SOSB/40HP	
N4CC	500	40	128	235,200	SOSB/40HP	
W4YA	138	21	65	32,422	SOSB/40HP	
HI3K	4092	123	352	4,554,300	SOABLP	AD4Z
N2NL/MM	2064	94	236	1,530,540	SOABLP	
4M5X	3135	40	141	1,678,237	SOSB/20HP	W4SO
5K5Z	1585	36	118	750,000	SOSB/20LP	
P4OJ	2560	33	112	1,105,625	SOSB/40HP	WX4G
C6AKQ	2459	33	103	778,328	SOSB/40LP	
C6AKQ	other bands for club			374,374	SOABLP	
VP2VVV	1212	73	199	751,536	M/S/LP	K9VV,K6CT
J7OJ	7964	149	455	11,289,968	M2/HP	K5KG,W9IRV,WI9WI,VE4VV (K5KG is FCG Mbr, other 3 ops donated score to FCG)
HC8N	12579	197	682	32,677,704	M2	K1TO,K6AW,N5KO,HA1AG 1/4 HC8N to FCG (K1TO)
FCG Total				50,824,574		
FCG Panhandle						
KD5M	708	112	309	803,689	SOABHP	
KN4Y	398	77	190	283,554	SOABLP	
K4JAF	221	70	158	139,156	SOABLP	
FCG Panhandle Total				1,226,399		

W4OI at 5K5Z - CQWW CW



Tony W4OI operating 5K5Z in CQWW CW



Final adjustments before the contest!



Completed Antenna Installation - 5K5Z



The 5K5Z QTH

AD4Z at HI3K in CQWW CW

Above: Julio AD4Z operating HI3K during CQWW CW.

Left: The HI3K QTH and antenna farm.

November SS CW Claimed Scores Scores

W4SAA	1017	79	B	160,686	SOHP
K4PV	981	79	B	154,998	SOHP
WC4E	652	77	B	100,400	SOHP
K4WJ	423	79	B	66,834	SOHP
K9VV	324	78	B	50,544	SOHP
K1TO	373	64	B	47,744	SOHP
W7QF	281	75	B	42,150	SOHP
K4XSS	212	59	B	25,016	SOHP
WJ9B	948	80	A	151,680	SOLP
W4ARM	813	77	A	125,202	SOLP
WD4AHZ	764	80	A	122,240	SOLP
WK2G	656	74	A	97,088	SOLP
K9OM	500	74	A	74,000	SOLP
NF4A	257	65	A	33,418	SOLP
NU4Y	177	64	A	22,656	SOLP
KE1F	172	61	A	20,984	SOLP
W4/KP2N	125	57	A	14,250	SOLP
K4RFK`	86	43	A	7,396	SOLP
K4XS	266	63	Q	33,516	SOQRP
W7CT	1046	80	M	167,360	Multi-Op
Club Totals				1,400,966	W7CT,K5KG

November SS SSB Claimed Scores Scores

K4PV	1672	79	B	264176	SOHP
N4BP	1400	80	B	224,000	SOHP
K4VUD	973	80	B	158,680	SOHP
N4GI	919	79	B	145,202	SOHP
K4XSS	346	67		46,364	SOHP
K4XS	333	62		41,292	SOHP
K4CC	219	71	B	31,098	SOHP
W4ZW	78	37	B	5,772	SOHP
KK4TA	907	77	A	139,678	SOLP
NF4A	388	77	A	59,752	SOLP
AA4RX	301	77	A	46,354	SOLP
K4JAF	140	80	A	22,400	SOLP
K8OSF	146	56	A	16,352	SOLP
K4RFK	131	52	A	13,624	SOLP
KE1F	80	47	A	7,520	SOLP
NA4CW	443	80	Q	70,880	SOQRP
W4ARM	1040	80	U	166,400	SOHP (U)
NJ4M	1835	80	M	293,600	Multi @ K1TO
Club Total					WD4AHZ, KA0GGI, K1TO
				1,753,144	

ARRL 10 Meter Contest

1	K4OJ	1173	90	422,280	SOLP/CW
2	WK2G	906	88	319,264	SOLP/CW
3	K1PT	798	98	312,816	SOLP/CW
4	WJ9B	884	85	300,560	SOLP/CW
5	WD4AHZ	803	86	276,576	SOLP/CW
6	KE1F	240	59	56,640	SOLP/CW
7	AJ2U	65	34	8,840	SOLP/CW
8	KV1P	177	67	23,718	SOLP/SSB
9	K4ADR	179	66	23,628	SOLP/SSB
10	K8OSF	112	49	10,976	SOLP/SSB
11	K1HG	100	50	10,000	SOLP/SSB
12	K0LUZ	739	154	372,680	SOLP/Mixed
13	K4IK	577	151	276,632	SOLP/Mixed
14	N4EK	681	126	207,396	SOLP/Mixed
15	N4KK	416	94	164,472	SOLP/Mixed
16	K4GKD	400	113	145,996	SOLP/Mixed
17	W1MO	330	99	111,672	SOLP/Mixed
18	W4EBA	212	88	65,472	SOLP/Mixed
19	NA4CW	144	56	25,984	SOLP/Mixed
20	WR3Y	112	65	19,370	SOLP/Mixed
21	K8NZ	80	41	11,398	SOLP/Mixed
22	K4RFK	78	48	11,232	SOLP/Mixed
23	K4CC	54		4,212	SOLP/Mixed
24	K9ES/M	49	32	3,130	SOLP/Mixed
25	N4BP	1068	94	401,568	SOHP/CW
26	N4GI	1021	89	363,476	SOHP/CW
27	N4TB	717	81	232,308	SOHP/CW
28	W4IR	146	62	36,208	SOHP/CW
29	K4WJ	136	37	28,832	SOHP/CW
30	K4MM	1052	103	216,712	SOHP/SSB
	KG4WW	1259	84	211,512	SOHP/SSB
31	NJ2F	645	85	109,650	SOHP/SSB
32	K4XS	797	62	98,828	SOHP/SSB
33	NA4AR	55	17	1,870	SOLP/SSB
34	WC4E	2179	207	1,278,846	SOHP/Mixed
35	N8PR	546	159	258,216	SOHP/Mixed
36	K4PB	400	119	152,320	SOHP/Mixed
37	W7QF	390	100	144,600	SOHP/Mixed
38	K1UM	422	105	126,630	SOHP/Mixed
39	K4LQ	210	76	57,456	SOHP/Mixed
40	K4DDR	62	78	37,440	SOHP/Mixed
41	WX4G	55	22	3,916	SOHP/Mixed
42	K9OM	819	145	357,570	SOQRP/Mixed
43	W4ARM	391	73	114,172	SOHP/CW/(A)
45	W4ZW	336	92	105,984	SOHP/Mixed(A)
46	NE4AA	2371	242	1,718,684	M/S HP K1TO/K6AW
47	W4/G4BUE	1135	162	594,540	M/S HP G4BUE, M0BUE

FCG Total**9,836,252****FCG Panhandle**

N4PN	2173	195	1,148,192	SOHP/Mixed
N4OX	1974	108	426,384	SOHP/SSB
K4PV	1734	168	840,000	SOHP/Mixed
KN4Y	821	76	249,584	SOLP/CW
K4JAF	425	81	68,850	SOLP/SSB
NF4A	210	58	39,600	SOLP/Mixed
KB4ET	231	70	32,340	SOLP/Mixed

Ed Note: Scores listed are those received at press time, quite a few more are expected, which will take us into the unlimited category for this year's contest.

K9VV

KX4WW (Score does not count for club total, since it is outside the location limitation (175 mile circle).

FCGers Rebuilding after Hurricane Damage

By Fred Perkins K4LQ

Good news is starting to come in as to progress in rebuilding by our members.

K4XS - The winds came through on Christmas night and finished off some of the undetected previously weakened elements on the 15 stack...so back up the tower to fix those. Total damage for the storms:

Cracked boom to mast plate lower 40.....lowered to ground and replaced

Broken elements on 20 meter beams at 150, and 200...lowered to ground and replaced

All 4 15 meter beams had broken elements and cracked boom to element mounts....all broken stuff fixed on tower Two 10 meter beams had broken elements from the broken 20 meter elements raining down on them.

One broken Tailtwister....cracked spur gear, several more Tailtwister suffered sheared bolts and one had a cracked head. The top 40 Tailtwister suffered a damaged indicator. Except for the cracked spur gear rotor, all others need to be worked on, but they are functional to some degree.

Water intrusion on several dipole coax....garbage bin and new coax.

In addition, all 19 HF antennas were blown off the correct settings and had to recalibrated on the towers.

K4VUD - My new 70 foot crank up tower is now connected to its base fixture but still lying on its side awaiting rising to vertical. I have on hand the 40 m quad that goes up there in due course.

KG4WW - Lost part of my beam in VP5...25% of our roof and misc other damage - all repaired except the beam....maybe on the next trip over.

K4LQ - Back up on all bands. The pushup pole 80 Meter vertical has been replaced with a small aluminum tower plus stinger vertical. The demolished 5 band quad has been replaced with a 6 band 3 element SteppIR. The 160 Meter Marconi has been replaced with an Inverted Vee. The 2 element Cushcraft 40 Meter Yagi and tower have been overhauled and are back in action.

Many thanks to FCGers **N4TB**, **N4TO**, **W4IR** and **W4QM** who aided mightily in these endeavors. W4QM came close to the "Forester of the Year" award for his performance of the Cocoa Beach two-step at the very top of an extension ladder while simultaneously cutting off several limbs from the two remaining trees in the vicinity of the antenna to allow the new SteppIR yagi to rotate freely.

W1YL/4 - Saturday Jan 8 a number of the crew spent the day taking down broken beams and pulling up unused cables etc.



Dan K1TO and Jeff WC4E in a rare moment off the tow-



Removing 10 Meter beam with a broken boom.



Removing broken 20M beams from tower



Broken beams finally down



Frank KA0GGI, Joe K4IK and Kevin N4KM working on deforestation of the antenna area at W1YL.

W1YL Responds to Tsunami

By Fred Perkins K4LQ

Ellen W1YL read the e-mail below on one of the major reflectors.

Dear member or friend of RAST,
As you have no doubt heard, the western coast of Thailand was devastated by a tsunami (tidal wave) on Sunday morning and as rescue efforts continue on Tuesday afternoon the death toll now exceeds 1,000 and is likely to rise to over 2,000 as more bodies are recovered from remote areas and islands.

In addition, over 7,500 Thais and foreign tourists are now receiving medical attention.

The Thai government has appealed for donations to assist people in the devastated areas while RAST understands that as far as Thailand's communications needs are concerned, the situation is now under control. Thai hams are helping to relay information between the affected areas along the west coast in the South to government agencies, mostly on VHF and 40 metres, as well as disseminating news and information over VHF frequencies in Bangkok.

Echolink, too, has played a role in enabling radio amateurs here to relay information to concerned friends and relatives of those holidaying in the affected areas.

I have spoken with our President Mrs Mayuree Chotikul, HS1YL, and to other officers of RAST as to what our society might be able to do to help in the wake of this disaster and, in particular, as to how to respond to offers of help and support already received from ham friends around the world.

We agree that what is now needed the most is help for the many thousands made homeless by the tsunami and so RAST is now accepting donations and will pass on all financial support received to the Thai Government which has opened a channel for this.

We will, of course, give full credit to the international amateur radio community and to the individual donors and donor organisations.

The best way to transfer funds to RAST for this purpose is by wire transfer, the details of which follow:

Siam City Bank

Ratchawat Branch No 111

Account Type: Savings
Account Number: 111-2-22688-4
Account Name: RAST

(Full name: Radio Amateur Society of Thailand, under the Royal Patronage of His Majesty the King)

We also ask that all donors send details of their support to dx@thai.com by email or by Fax to +662-321-6443 for our records so that we can acknowledge this and give full credit. Please help Thailand in this time of need in any way you can, and we encourage you to pass this appeal along to any others whom you feel may be able to help.

Thank you
Sincere 73,
Tony Waltham, HS0ZDX
Vice President,
Radio Amateur Society of Thailand
Under the Royal Patronage of His Majesty the King

Ellen decided to make a contribution to the RAST Tsunami

Relief effort from the W1CW/K4OJ Memorial Fund.

On Saturday January 15, I sent the following e-mail to the RAST Vice President in Thailand:

At the direction of Ellen White W1YL, I wire transferred \$200 USD from the W1CW/K4OJ Memorial Fund to the Siam City Bank in Bangkok Thailand for deposit in the RAST Tsunami Relief Fund. The Florida Contest Group maintains an account for the above Memorial Fund and dispenses funds as directed.

Best wishes as you continue your recovery from the Tsunami disaster.

73,
Fred Perkins K4LQ
Treasurer, Florida Contest Group

I received the following reply on Sunday January 16.

Dear Fred,
Thank you, the Florida Contest Group and Ellen White, W1YL, for your generous support in this time of need. The Radio Amateur Society of Thailand (RAST) deeply appreciates your donation, which will be passed on organisations here that are helping the victims of this disaster.

We will let you know later how your donation, along with those made by many other radio amateurs and their representative organisations, has helped to alleviate some of the suffering and loss as a result of the tsunami on Dec 26, 2004.

Sincere 73
Tony Waltham, HS0ZDX,
Vice President,

VU4 Memories

By Charly Harpole K4VUD

For over four years I have been working with VU2RBI, Bharathi, to try to get VU4 operating permission after a 17 year hiatus. Mid-November 2004, she got that permission and had to start ops by the first of December and only for one month. She and four other VU hams were on the permit list number one and they began transmissions to the multitudes from Andaman on time. I joined them there mid December as a helper and photographer. I was "on the list" to be among the "second team" of permitted operators, but the permit came after I had to depart Asia to come back to Fla. to teach the Spring semester.

As everyone now knows, once the huge earthquake and Tsunami struck that area, the VU4 team converted to emergency communications mode and continued for over two weeks, providing vital communications for many parts of the Andaman and Nicobar Island chain.

At about 6:30 AM the morning after Christmas local time, I was shaken out of bed in my fifth floor room in the DXpedition HQ hotel. Bracing myself in the doorway, I had trouble standing up as the floor shifted and bottles and bits of concrete ceiling fell. It happened too fast to get frightened, and

I rushed out of the hotel as soon as the shaking stopped. Everyone was out already, including Bharathi who had the adjoining room.

The ham antennas stood up ok on the roof and very quickly the VU4 team activated the rigs on an outside table using the hotel's generator. Bharathi passed a message to phone my wife in Thailand that I was ok and then began taking health and welfare traffic from the hotel staff and guests. I told everyone that there would likely be a BIG WAVE coming in about a half hour, and two of the team got a three-wheel taxi and ran around in Port Blair telling folks to get away from the coast. Only four people died when the 15 foot wave hit the town's sea wall.

Over the coming days, the team and other VU hams were deployed with government workers all over the Islands and provided vital com links to the whole area.

Not speaking the language they were using, I took my regularly sked air ticket back to Thailand to check on my wife and her family. They felt nothing, it turns out but were mightily worried about me. I used my HS0ZCW station to relay a few emergency and H&W messages for the Indian hams.

Many news media found me for interviews. I tried to emphasize the value of ham radio to them.

The DXpedition, prior to the emergency, made over 35,000 contacts and used all bands up to 6 meters and "all" modes including some ssTV, PSK, and RTTY. There were three stations active at all times in separate locations in Port Blair using VU4RBI and VU4NRO (the NIAR club call).

Of course, I want to go back and try to use my permit, but UCF duty calls.

Meanwhile, ham radio has gotten a real positive exposure in that part of the world. I think much good will come for ham radio from the horrible tragedy.

Skywarn Recognition Day

By Eric Smit K9ES

Yesterday and Friday night, I set up a Multi-Multi Station at the National Weather Service Melbourne and used the call sign WX4MLB. We had participation from Osceola Skywarn and Brevard Amateur Radio Emergency Services. Even NWS staff took time to make QSOs and log. Several are licensed, and one in particular is a damn good operator.

Antennas were set on 4 crank up emergency towers. The 20M 3 element monobander was at 45 feet. We had a rotor on that one. All others were around 35 feet (2 element 40 made from the scrap pile from my hurricane damage, 3 element 15 and A4S for 10) with arm/string rotation. An 80M dipole was strung from the 65 foot level of the radar tower to the 80 foot level of the instrumentation / communications tower some 200 feet away. The ends were NNW and SSE.

Stations were set up with 20M in the rear equipment shed, and all the others from the conference room. On 20M, I used my IC756Pro2 with an Ameritron AL572 running a KW. On 15 / 40 Meters, we used an IC765 with Amp Supply AL1000. On 10 / 80M we used an IC756Pro2 with an Ameritron AL811H amplifier. Between radios and amplifiers were ICE bandpass filters.

On VHF, we used the IC706Mk2G and some 6M and 2M antennas mounted on the Osceola EOC trailer / 60 foot hydraulic mast. No 450 was used.

No equipment suffered receiver degradation from the strong RF of other radios. The antennas played very well.

We made 1537 QSOs with some great DX. The 20M station made 798 QSOs by itself. At around Midnight on Friday night on 20M, I worked into a VK / ZL / South Pacific WX net on 14.290. Besides the VK's and ZL's that we worked, we also QSOs a YJ8. 20 Was dead at that time. The VK's and ZL's were not hearing anything coming from the states, and the rest of the band was dead!

We made several QSOs via Packet through the digital repeater on the International Space Station as well as an ISS QSO.

The operation produced 3 times as many QSOs as ever made from WX4MLB during a Skywarn Recognition Day. We believe that the operation may have placed NWS Melbourne at the top of all NWS Stations. Hope some of you had a chance to work us. QSL via QRZ.COM info.



3 El 20M Yagi



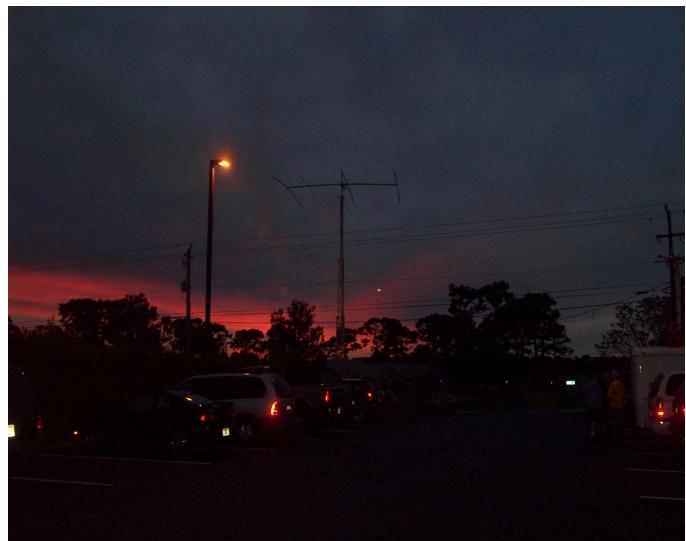
AD4ES on 40M SSB



NWS Melbourne



Lee W4UUM, Eric K9ES and Greg AA4KO setting up the 40-15 Meter Station



10 Meter Beam at Sunset



15 Meter, 10 Meter and VHF Antennas



40 Meter Beam

ARRL 160 Meter Contest

Call	QSOs	Sections	Countries	Score	Power
WJ9B	702	76	12	127,248	SOLP
W4SAA	680	74	13	123,729	SOLP
W4AA	570	74	17	109,473	SOLP
W7QF	260	75		41,925	SOLP
WD4AHZ	147	44	2	13,800	SOLP
N4EK	130	41	3	11,968	SOLP
WX4G	523	76	28	120,952	SOHP
N4IS	304	75	25	71,300	SOHP
K4PB	307	69	9	50,700	SOHP
K9OM	600			42,750	SOHP
K4JAF	211	64	11	33,900	SOHP
N8PR	183	55	8	25,137	SOHP
FCG Panhandle					
KN4Y	400	57	2	47,554	SOLP

FCG Contest Forum at the Tampa

By Dan Street K1TO

Thanks again to those who took the time to help with our FCG-sponsored contest forum.

Ron, WD4AHZ took the time to lay out many details related to the FCG-sponsored Florida QSO Party. Log entries passed the 700 mark this year, in just our 7th running. The mobile window was a big hit and looks to be continued in future years.

Danny, T93M/N4EXA did a great job on his first Power-Point presentation and showed us lots of interesting pix of Bonaire where he recently operated PJ4J in CQWW SSB, chasing the World SOABLP record.

Tony, W4OI (ex N7BG) explained each of many pictures of the high lush hillside at the HK3CQ station that he piloted using 5K5Z just last weekend in WW CW on 20M single-band low power.

Dan, K1TO took a PowerPoint presentation developed by XE1KK and W6NL and enhanced it with some recent pix from last weekend's HC8N M/2 adventure. The 4-man team broke the M/2 World Record by a wide margin with over 32 million points. The presentation covered much of the 6-year history of the station in HC8.

Thanks to Blake, N4GI for bringing cups, plates, napkins, ice, soda, etc. and handling the 10-pizza delivery.

I'll take a stab at listing the members I saw in the forum or in the hamfest: K1KNQ, K1TO, K4LAW, K4XS, K4XSS, KA0GGI, KP3AC, N4GI, N4LML, T93M/N4EXA, W1ROX, W4DN, W4OI, W4ZW, WD4AHZ

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